Acts that came into force in 1119 and 1120.

411. *MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of Acts which came into force in 1119 and 1120;

(*b*) their names; and

(*c*) the Acts among them which have been passed by the Legislature?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) 51 Acts, (23 in 1119 and 28 in 1120 till 2-12-1120) were passed in 1119 and 1120. Of these, all the Acts, excepting Act XIII of 1120 (Prevention of Begging Act) and Act XXVIII of 1120 (Reciprocity Act) have been enforced.

(*b*) A statement containing the names of the Acts is laid on the Secretary's table.

(*c*) *Vide* items star-marked in the statement.

Transport of food grains.

412. *MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*): In a statement to the Press (Hindu April 10th, 1944) explaining the reasons for the charges being Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3 on every bag transported from Cochin to Alleppey or Trivandrum the Director of Information said that "this transport very often involves considerable damage to and loss of grains on account of wetting due to stress of weather and sinking of canoes in the backwaters" Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of bags damaged and lost on account of wetting;

(*b*) the number of bags lost by sinking of canoes in 1118 and 1119; and

(*c*) the amount of loss sustained by these in 1118 and in 1119;

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR:

(*a*) (1) Approximate number of bags damaged on account of wetting ... 1,705

(ii) Approximate number of bags lost on account of wetting ... 9

(*b*) (i) Number of bags lost on account of sinking of canoes in 1118 ... Nil

(ii) Do. in 1119 ... 9

(*c*) (i) Amount of loss sustained on account of the above in 1118 ... Rs. 2,100

(ii) Do. in 1119 ... ,, 10,500

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Thiruvella*): May I know whether any measures have been taken to prevent the loss after 1118?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Do you mean, to ascertain the loss?

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, it is stated here that the loss for 1118 is Rs. 2,100. Has any measure been taken to prevent the loss in future?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Oh, yes.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: If so, what measure?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: These are losses caused on account of the canoes that we used. The canoes were repaired and ...

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PRESIDENT: I do not hear the honourable member at all. Will he kindly repeat the angwer?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Sir, on account of gale...

PRESIDENT: What is the answer of the Honourable member, I do not hear.

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Sir, for transport facilities the boats used were sometimes not useful. Sometimes, loss is incurred because the boats are in a bad condition; and sometimes through gale they are damaged. But now, good boats are put into the water and transport is being continued without much loss.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: How could you account for the loss of Rs. 10,500 in 1119, if some sufficient precautions have been taken?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Sir, it cannot be taken because the gale, the bad weather—all these things cannot be prevented.

PRESIDENT: Canoes were used in that year, and after the best enquiry it was found that the damage was due to the tempest or the high gales. It was not due to any bad handling that the loss occurred.

MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI: Cannot we then presume gross dereliction of duty on the part of the officers?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Is it not because the boats became leaky and were not repaired that the loss occurred?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

Food grains taken delivery of by Food Department.

413 ✻ **MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of bags of food grains taken delivery of by the Food Department of Government at the Central Railway Station, Trivandrum, during the first ten months of the year 1120;

(*b*) the rate of wages per bag given for unloading from the wagon; and

(*c*) the rate of wages per bag given for transporting and stocking it in the godowns at Chalai?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (*a*) 3,31,914 bags of rice

(*b*) A rate of 3/4 anna per bag is paid for unloading from railway wagons, loading in lorries, unloading, weighing and stacking in godowns;

(*c*) 1 anna 9 pies per bag of 162 lbs., weight for transport by lorries.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it a contract that is fixed up for this work?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: There are contracts for the loading and unloading and contracts for the transport.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is it a contract fixed up after inviting tenders by notification?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The Depot Officers fixed the contracts for the loading and unloading. It is presumed that it is done by inviting tenders.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is the contract on lorries also fixed?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: I think so.

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